

am reminded of what he said so succinctly as a result of last year's deal. He called it, quite frankly, a "Satan sandwich." He has really been able to take leadership on these issues because, as a person of faith, he understands the moral and the, really, I think, extremely deep ethical impacts of our decisions. He pricks our conscience as we approach our deliberations.

Indeed, in what has many times and often times been the most divisive, polarizing, and political climate that many of us have experienced, Chairman CLEAVER has used his pastoral skills, his ability to bring people together on both sides of the aisle to help us all through times of trouble.

□ 1100

He is truly a Member's Member. He helped to remind us exactly why we are all here. And yes, he is a brilliant legislator, but he's also a prophetic leader.

Chairman CLEAVER visited my district on my birthday not long ago, and he blessed me and my church with a sermon. And I must say, it was a moving, a powerful, and a spirited sermon. He's truly an anointed pastor, and he has demonstrated this gift in his work and his leadership here in Congress.

Also, Chairman CLEAVER is a strong environmentalist, and I had the privilege to visit his district where, as mayor of Kansas City, he led the way in the greening of his great city. His presentation and his clarity on climate change and how it is affecting God's planet and its inhabitants is brilliant and it's clear. Communities of color and low-income communities owe Chairman CLEAVER a debt of gratitude for tackling this tough issue with patience and with clarity.

But I know that Chairman Reverend Congressman CLEAVER does not stand alone. He has an amazing support system with his family and his wife, Dianne, who has been a friend to me and to the Congressional Black Caucus. Dianne is a brilliant and beautiful woman who was taught, like myself, by the Sisters of Loretto. She has been by his side offering her advice, counsel, and love.

I thank Chairman CLEAVER for his friendship. My congressional district, my pastor, J. Alfred Smith, Sr., and Junior, the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California, and my entire congressional district deeply appreciate Chairman CLEAVER's generosity and his attention, not only to his remarkable constituents and his district, but to my district, to all of our districts, to our great Nation, and to our country.

Thank you, Chairman Reverend Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER for your tremendous leadership, for your friendship, and I look forward to our continuing work together for peace and justice.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let it be very clear, EMANUEL CLEAVER is not retiring from the United States Congress, but we are here to thank him for his service to the Congressional Black Caucus as chair, but really to the Nation.

Let me thank my colleagues for gathering this morning to raise a voice of crescendo in thanks and appreciation for this man called EMANUEL CLEAVER. His progeny and his ancestors are grateful for the mark that he has made on behalf of America.

Chairman CLEAVER speaks eloquently about his origins of hailing from Texas and his many relatives who remain there, even those who are in the surrounding areas of the 18th Congressional District. He's a proud graduate of Prairie View A&M University in Texas, in the surrounding area of Houston, Prairie View, Texas. He has a great heritage and connectedness to the Black Power movement, and he is a good combination of peace, gentleness, firmness, leadership, and courage.

And I might say that he was a man for these times, just as the Bible dictated that Esther was a woman for her time, was there for a time such as that. Our chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus found his role in a number of challenges that we faced. And if I might paraphrase a Biblical story, hopefully I have it nearly right, but I call this chairman a modern day Joseph who is able to wear the multicolored coat, representing constituencies from all backgrounds and going to represent his people in a foreign land. Chairman CLEAVER would go to places where others had not gone or raise his voice for issues that were unpopular, and he did so with the consensus and collaboration of the astute and committed members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I went to his district, as many of us did. We're proud to see the affection, friendship, and love given to him by his constituents. I was so interested in what we call the green corridor; so many are looking to instill and implement that in their own districts.

Thank you, Reverend CLEAVER, for coming to Houston, Texas, on more than one occasion, but particularly to the NAACP banquet when I was named a recipient of the Mickey Leland Humanitarian Achievement Award, but more importantly, for your words of diminished return that if, in fact, we go to the lowest common denominator, if we don't raise ourselves to the highest level of challenge, then it becomes a diminished return, if I might paraphrase Chairman CLEAVER's words. It was a rousing and challenging speech that lifted people off their feet, and it caused us to think about what we need to do.

Finally, as others have spoken of his work on creating jobs for all of America, particularly those underserved, where the African American job unemployment rate was so high, he was a champion during the debate and the challenge of passing the Affordable Care Act, now proudly ObamaCare. When we came together that Sunday, March 19, before we had to go and vote, it was Chairman CLEAVER that led us to a prayer service where we worshipped and were renewed. We came back ready to cast our votes, to put this great legislation that is going to save lives over the top. We did it as a body, as a collective body, and as a group of members of the Congressional Black Caucus. And so even preceding his time in leadership, he led.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me offer my thank-you to this native son of Texas, a graduate of Prairie View A&M, one of the great institutions in the State of Texas. Let me congratulate his wife and his wonderful children and his extended family and all those who have seen in him the willingness to sacrifice for others. Thank you, Chairman CLEAVER. The great news is you're not retiring from this body and your leadership for America will continue.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CHAIRMAN EMANUEL CLEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outgoing chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Reverend and Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, II, of Missouri, who is my colleague and good friend. Representative CLEAVER has graciously served with distinction in the House of Representatives and the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri for nearly 8 years.

He has been an outstanding chairman to the Congressional Black Caucus, ushering the caucus through its 40th anniversary. He cares deeply for all Americans—children, seniors, and the marginalized of our society. Who can forget his demonstrative leadership on the CBC Jobs Tour where tens of thousands of Americans lined up for an opportunity to present themselves to employers.

From creating economic opportunity, supporting quality education for all children, to ensuring equal access to health care for all Americans, Chairman CLEAVER has truly been the embodiment of the conscience of the Congress.

After the shooting of our colleague Gabrielle Giffords, her staff, and constituents in Tucson, Arizona, occurred, Chairman CLEAVER was one of the first people to call for civility and the end to the toxic rhetoric here in Washington.

Congressman CLEAVER led the effort to ensure that all citizens registered to